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THE CUP OF BLOOD.

JAMES BUCKHAM.

When deep in Adullam's cave David the king,
Lay, hemmed by the troop of the insolent foe,
He dreamed of the beautiful Bethlehem spring
That flowed by the gate of the city below.

He saw there the maidens with pitcher and jar,
The faint camels kneeling and stirring the tide,
And the stream flowing down and refreshing afar
The cool waving palm-trees that sprang by its side.

Then waking from slumber, the king started up,
With thirst of the soul and the body distraught,
And he cried: "O that some one would bring me a cup
Of the crystal, sweet well by the Bethlehem gate!"

Then the three mighty men who had followed him there,
The chief and the bravest of thirty, arose,
And girded their loins, and laid their swords bare,
And mightily brake through the midst of their foes.

Then back, with the cup of the Bethlehem spring,
They fought their fierce way through the Philistine band,
And fled to the fastness, and came to the king,
And proudly delivered the cup to his hand.

For a moment he stood, all his veins hot as fire,
And drank with his eyes; then he marked the red stain
On the cup, and turned quickly, and crushed his desire,
And poured out the draught on the sand of the plain.

And he looked up and said: "Be it far from me, Lord!
Shall I drink of the blood of the men who went forth,
At the price of their lives, against spear, against sword?
Shall I quench my vile thirst with a draught of such worth?"

O David! O kingly one, mighty of soul!
I would we were great with greatness of thine,
That royal unselfishness, noble control,
That so in this act of thy majesty shine!

I would that we thought of the price of our gain,
Of the cost unto others of what we possess—
Of the labor it cost them, the anguish, the pain,
The woe and the toil, and the strain and the stress.

I would we might add to each blessing, each gift,
Some thought of its price, some appraisal of love—
Not batten on life without sorrow or shrift,
Not rending the weak as the hawk rends the dove.

But O, might we feel, as did David, the king,
The infinite cost of the hardly-won good;
And steep not our lips in that too sacred thing—
The over-full cup of our fellow-man's blood!

—*Christian Advocate.*

Sir Garnet (now Lord) Wolseley, presiding at the annual public debate of the University College Debating Society, held at the College, Gower Street, in 1882, said that, "One of the most distinguished generals in the world, who was a German, said once to him that no one could realize the burden which universal military service was to Germany except those who really knew what it was. The burdens were very great, and the system drove from that country its finest men, so that it was regarded by a large section of the people with detestation and horror. They had only to go to such places as Hamburg to see thousands of able-bodied men leaving the country to escape from that 'INFERNAL AND CURSED BURDEN OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE.'"

BLOOD TAXES.

There are renewed causes of the irritation in France, aroused by the taxes on foreigners of all classes, by the extension of the military tax in lieu of service on certain classes of Frenchmen hitherto exempt, and the demand that this blood-tax shall be levied on foreigners, including Englishmen domiciled in France. In response to this proposal, angry letters have appeared in the *Times*, and other dailies, which sufficiently indicate severe diplomatic struggles approaching. In regard to the general policy of these impositions on strangers within the gates, M. Yves Guyot, the French minister of public works, has made a dignified and comprehensive protest; but under the feverish pressure caused by the load of debt, and the ever increasing military preparations, such wise counsels may be overborne.—*Concord.*

PENNSYLVANIA PEACE SOCIETY.

The Twenty-third Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Peace Society was celebrated Dec. 12, in St. George's Hall, Philadelphia, by meetings during the morning, afternoon and evening, and by a supper at 6 o'clock, when the aggregate of the day's donations for the cause was announced. The President, Dr. Sarah T. Rogers, called the meeting to order. In her opening address, Dr. Rogers said that the cause of peace has made steady progress since the first society was formed in America. There are now forty-three organizations in this country, six in France, four in Germany, eight in Great Britain, four in Italy, and one each in Denmark, Holland, Hungary, Norway and Sweden.

Reports were made by Rev. Amanda Deyo and Mrs. Belya Lockwood, of the recent Paris Peace Congress.

The Rev. B. T. Lee, who represented Bishop Jabez P. Campbell, addressed the society on the topic "Dare to be a Peace Man Always," and K. Joslin, of Providence, on "War Desructive, Peace Constructive." Mrs. Hannah J. Bailey, of Maine, spoke upon "The W. C. T. U. and Peace, the Strongest Forces."

At 8 o'clock another session was held, at which the attendance was much larger than during the day. After the reading of a poem by John Collins, and some vocal music, addresses were made by the Rev. George Dana Boardman, D. D., on "Disarmament;" the Rev. Amanda Deyo, of New York, peace delegate to the European Peace Congress, who spoke of "Peace, the Real Golden Medal;" Aaron M. Powell, of New York, on "Things that Make for Peace;" the Rev. J. H. Clifford, of Germantown, on "The Greetings of the Promises;" Rabbi Joseph Krauskopf on "The Demand for Peace," and by others.

Resolutions were adopted declaring in favor of arbitration as a substitute for war; that, in lieu of a War Department, or in addition thereto, there should be a Peace Department, with an International Court of Arbitration; recognizing the happy omen presented by the sitting in Washington of the Conferences of the maritime powers and of the American States; declaring against the taking of human life, either on the scaffold, or on battle-fields, or by any other so-called legal means; favoring temperance; declaring against appropriations for coast defences, etc., and in favor of the encouragement of commerce.